<u>IN THE ABSTRACT</u>:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 72, line 2 and ending at line 12. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto is attached.

--A method of detecting <u>the end of the</u> life of an image bearing member has: a contact time detecting step of detecting <u>the</u> contact time when a developer carrying member that can be in contact with or have a clearance with an image bearing member contacts the image bearing member, the developer carrying member developing an electrostatic image formed in the image bearing member by a developer; and a determining step of determining <u>the end of the</u> life of the image bearing member in accordance with a parameter calculated by using the contact time detected in the contact time detecting step.--